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BILL WOULD CURB DATA TO PRETORIA

Senators Seek to Limit Sharing
of Intelligence on Rebels

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WASHINGTON, July 31 — A Senate committee is preparing legislation that would limit the information American intelligence agencies could share with South Africa about that country's black opposition groups, committee members said today.

The proposed amendment, which has been drafted by members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, would prohibit the United States from sharing data on the opposition groups unless it involved warnings of violent attacks. The measure is to be attached to a bill setting economic sanctions against South Africa that is now before the Foreign Relations Committee.

Present and former officials of the Reagan Administration disclosed this month that the United States, working with Britain, had provided South Africa with intelligence on the African National Congress, the leading banned black opposition group. The sources said the sharing of information on the group began under President Reagan.

Senior Reagan Administration officials denied the charges. Moreover, officials from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency testified at a closed session of the Senate Intelligence committee this week that no intelligence on the African National Congress had been given to South Africa.

A Senate aide said the reports of intelligence sharing had prompted some in the Senate to discuss restrictions on all American intelligence gathering in South Africa or on any relationship with South African intelligence.

Despite the assurances, the Senate intelligence panel, at the direction of its chairman, Senator Dave Durenberger, Republican of Minnesota, drafted legislation that would bar the sharing of information.

Not Going to Pick Sides'

The legislation will be introduced by Senator Frank H. Murkowski, a Republican of Alaska who is a member of both the intelligence and Foreign Relations committees. Under the amendment, the director of Central Intelligence would be required to report to the intelligence committee if he learns of any "authorized or unauthorized" sharing of intelligence on the black opposition groups.

"This is a clear public statement that we're not going to, in effect, pick sides in the internal power struggle," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and a member of the intelligence committee. "It's an important statement on the part of this Government that we're not going to involve ourselves in trying to help either side."

Senator McConnell said he did not expect any opposition from the C.I.A. since "they say they're not doing it."

The provision of the amendment that allows sharing of information on violent attacks appears to leave open the possibility that some American intelligence data could still be passed to Pretoria. The African National Congress's tactics have involved violence against opponents inside South Africa.

In its work on the sanctions bill today, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee rejected a proposal that would have barred any intelligence cooperation between Pretoria and Washington.